Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

Weather model puts missiles back on target

28 June 2000

Release number 419

Artillery 2000 - Larkhill, Salisbury Plain - 29 June - 1 July - Exhibition Hall

New technology to improve the quality of weather information available to military personnel when firing ammunition will be demonstrated at this year's Artillery 2000 exhibition. The technology is intended to improve the overall accuracy of indirect fire.

The system, called CMETS (Computerised Met. System), has been developed over the past three years by The Met. Office under the Ministry of Defence Applied Research Programme. When the technology becomes available, CMETS will form an integral part of the Army's Fire Control BISA (Battlefield Information System Application), which is currently being developed to provide a digitised system for artillery targeting.

CMETS uses a small-scale battlefield model, measuring 200 km2, and applies meteorological data from a Met. Office weather model. By taking into account the effect of local topography, such as hills and valleys, CMETS is able to produce enhanced high-resolution weather information that can be plotted to the nearest five kilometres. These meteorological data will be fed into the Fire Control's BISA, which will in turn produce information that can enable gun targets to be adjusted manually or automatically according to the prevailing conditions.

CMETS will work alongside the Ballistic Met. System (BMETS), developed by Alenia-Marconi, which relies upon weather data fed by radiosonde balloons. CMETS will apply these local observations, including upper-air observations, to the computer model.

The system is also being considered for other applications in combat. As a small-scale meteorological model of the battlefield, CMETS could also be able to provide forecasts for unmanned air vehicles, parachute drops and dispersion of chemical and nuclear agents.

According to Patrick Sachon from The Met. Office, "CMETS will bring better quality meteorological data to the battlefield." He said: "The weather is a significant factor in the error budget of artillery and indirect fire. The data CMETS will provide as part of the Fire Control BISA will help improve the accuracy of these weapon systems."

CMETS forms part of the Army's digitisation initiative, which will see a series of developments that are designed to replace 'traditional' tactical planning and warfare methods.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

About
Met Office
Hadley Centre
Terms and conditions
Advertise on our site
News
News release archive
Media Centre
Learn
About the weather
From the bookshelf
Services

Mobile text forecasts
Weathercall
Marinecall
Mountain weather
MetWEB
Talk to a forecaster
Links
Met Office data users
National met. services
Scientific interest sites
EA Floodline
Directgov
Freedom of Information
Contact
Contact us
Questions answered

© Crown copyright